

PAINTBRUSH DRAINING CONTAINER

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional
Application Serial No. 60/395,223 filed July 11, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is in the field of painting devices and supplies.
More particularly, the present invention is a container useful for draining
10 paint or a paint solvent from a wet, tapered paintbrush.

BACKGROUND

Painters strive to maintain their paintbrushes so that the bristle end
of a brush remains in its original shape as long as possible. Brush bristle
15 maintenance is especially important for tapered paintbrushes intended for
use in painting trim and intricate designs. One common problem is that
brush bristles tend to deleteriously flair when a brush that is wet with paint
or pain solvent is allowed to dry.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus useful
20 for maintaining the original shape of the bristle end of a tapered paintbrush.
It is a further object of the present invention for such apparatus to be
convenient to use while painting, particularly for painting substrates
requiring painter mobility, such as walls and wall trim. It is a still further
object of the present invention to provide an apparatus that is useful for
25 maintaining the shape of a variety of sizes and shapes of tapered
paintbrushes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the
30 present paintbrush draining container wherein the catch pan also serves as
a paint roller pan.

FIG. 2 is a detail perspective view of the preferred container of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention is a container for draining a liquid from a wet, tapered paintbrush. The container includes a draining sleeve and a catch pan. The draining sleeve **20** has an open upper sleeve end **36** and an open or partially-open lower sleeve end **32**, a front panel **30**, a rear panel **28**, and a pair of opposite side panels **24**. The rear panel and the pair of opposite
10 side panels extend downwardly from the open lower sleeve end **32** to a catch pan **22**. The catch pan that defines an open reservoir **34** adapted for collecting the drained liquid. The panels of the draining sleeve form a wedge-shaped drainage channel **38** therebetween. The wedge-shaped channel has a size suitable for receiving the bristle end of the tapered
15 paintbrush and holding the bristles a compact, tapered manner.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

 The present invention is a container for draining a liquid, such as paint or a paint solvent, from a wet, tapered paintbrush. The container
20 includes a first section for holding and draining the paintbrush, referred to herein as the draining sleeve. The container further includes a second section for collecting the liquid, referred to herein as the catch pan.

 Referring to Fig.'s 1-2, the draining sleeve **20** of the container has an open upper sleeve end **36** and an open or partially-open lower sleeve end
25 **32**, a front panel **30**, a rear panel **28**, and a pair of opposite side panels **24**. The rear panel and the pair of opposite side panels extend downwardly from the lower sleeve end **32** to the catch pan **22**. The catch pan defines an open reservoir **34** adapted for collecting the drained liquid.

 It is an important aspect of the present invention that the front and
30 rear panels of the draining sleeve are aligned with each other in a

sufficiently downwardly converging direction to form a wedge-shaped drainage channel **38** between the panels. The angle of convergence of the draining sleeve is suitable to define a channel therein that is wide enough at the upper sleeve end to receive the bristle end of the tapered paintbrush, yet narrow enough at the lower sleeve end to secure the bristles in a compact, tapered manner so as to prevent flaring as the bristles become dry. The angle formed by the direction of the front panel and the rear panel preferably converges at a point no lower than the bottom of the catch pan reservoir.

5 The lower sleeve end **32** may be either completely open or partially open. Fig.'s 1-2 show a partially open lower sleeve end provided by a front panel **30** having two orifices **40** in the lower portion thereof. The wedge-shaped cavity **38** may have a single drainage orifice **40** or a plurality of orifices, as long as it is sufficiently open to allow for drainage.

15 In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the catch pan of the draining container is adapted for use as a paint roller pan, as shown in the Figures. Thus, the draining container can be used for draining a tapered paint brush at the same time that it is being used as a rolling pan. The drainage container of the present invention can be usable in an upright position as a stand-alone container. Alternatively, the container can be
20 equipped with a means for hanging the container from an object such as a ladder, window sill, or from a painter's body, as shown in Fig. 1. Suitable means for hanging include a hook **26** as shown in Fig. 2, a strap **42** as shown in Fig. 1, and traditional affixing mechanisms. The container can
25 also be a modified paint roller pan for lateral use, as shown in FIG. 2. Various additional applications of the invention should become evident to one of ordinary skill in the art from the Figures.

 The draining container of the present invention can be formed from any nonporous material. Particularly suitable materials include plastics and
30 lightweight metals such as aluminum. Methods of manufacture include

traditional methods such as injection molding, thermoforming, and stamping.

5 The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention.